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REPORT OF THE
SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGISLATIVE OFFICES



TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
THIRD SESSION
MARCH 14, 1985 to April 2, 1986

I. MEMBERS OF THE SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES:

Dr. C. Robert Elliott
Chairman
Grande Prairie

Dr. David J. Carter
Deputy Chairman
Calgary-Egmont

Mr. Dennis Anderson
Calgary-Currie

Dr. Walter A. Buck
Clover Bar

Mr. Jim Gurnett
Spirit River-Fairview

Mr. Al Hiebert
Edmonton-Gold Bar

Mr. James E. (Bud) Miller
Lloydminster

Mr. William F. Purdy
Stony Plain

Mr. John Thompson
Cardston

II. MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS PRESENT</u>
June 6, 1985	
June 25, 1985	
September 26, 1985	Auditor General
October 1, 1985	Chief Electoral Officer
October 8, 1985	
October 16, 1986	Ombudsman
October 24, 1985	
November 13, 1985	
December 19, 1985	Chief Electoral Officer
January 29, 1986	
March 5, 1986	Ombudsman
March 10, 1986	Auditor General
April 1, 1986	

This Committee does not meet on a regularly scheduled basis. Rather, it meets as often as necessary to accomplish the tasks which it has to perform.

III. ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices was created in 1978 to facilitate contact between the elected members and the three legislative officers: the Auditor General, the Ombudsman and the Chief Electoral Officer. The Committee is composed of representatives of all political parties that hold seats in the Assembly. It is the purpose of this Committee to enable the Legislature to ensure that its officers are accountable to it while still maintaining and being seen to maintain independence from the government. The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices is designated in the relevant Acts as the link between the Assembly and the officers and is unique within the Canadian parliamentary system. During the course of the 1985-86 session, the Committee gave significant attention to exploring the character of its relationship with the three officers, recognizing the need for accountability and increased contact while still safeguarding the independence and impartiality that enable the officers to do their jobs so well.

Mr. Brian Sawyer, since his appointment to the position of Alberta Ombudsman less than two years ago, has initiated a number of changes in his office. In April 1985, Mr. Sawyer attended meetings in Australia in his capacity as board member to the International Ombudsman Institute. The topics and venue for the 1988 International Ombudsman Conference were discussed at these meetings.

Mr. Donald D. Salmon was chosen by the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee to replace the retiring Auditor General, Mr. Douglas W. Rogers, effective April 1, 1986. Mr. Salmon assumed the office of Auditor General Designate on January 1, 1986.

Mr. Patrick Ledgerwood was appointed Chief Electoral Officer on August 1, 1985. One of the first tasks facing Mr. Ledgerwood was the enumeration for the next provincial election.

A major focus of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices over the past few years has been to increase the contact between the officers - the Auditor General, the Ombudsman, and the Chief Electoral Officer - the Committee members, and other members of the Legislative Assembly. In the last year the Committee has met with each of the officers. In addition, a reception for the Auditor General, the Ombudsman, the Chief Electoral Officer, and all the MLAs, is being planned.

Travel by Committee members with Legislative Officers has continued. The following is a list of out-of-province travel by Committee members on Committee business during the past year:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Mr. Hiebert Mr. Miller Mr. Thompson	Ombudsman	Canadian Ombudsman Conference - Quebec City	June 16- 19, 1985
Dr. Elliott	Auditor General	Conference of Legislative Auditors - Whitehorse, Yukon	July 7- 11, 1985
Mr. Anderson	Auditor General	Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation - Montreal	December 1-3, 1985
Mr. Hiebert	Chief Electoral Officer	Council on Governmental Ethics Laws - Chicago	December 3-6, 1985

It is expected that such travel will continue to be a part of the Committee's work. All of those Committee members that were involved in travel noted that it was a valuable opportunity to become more familiar with the issues of importance to each office and to observe the manner in which these offices are fulfilled elsewhere.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Offices also devoted some time to exploring the need for greater consistency in the reporting mechanisms and budget dates for the three legislative officers. It was generally felt that this is a worthwhile goal to strive for in the long term.

IV. BUDGETS

One of the major responsibilities of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices is to review the budgets of the three legislative officers and to develop a budget for its own activities. These budgets are presented in summary form below:

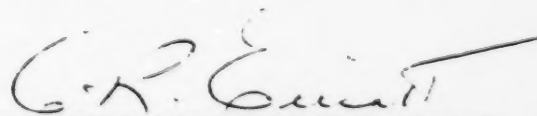
LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS

<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>SALARY EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>Office Estimate 1986-1987</u>
Auditor General	June 1, 1985	\$10,807,582
Ombudsman	September 1, 1984	\$ 835,924
Chief Electoral Officer	August 1, 1985	\$ 4,308,080

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 1986-87

Wages	--
Employer Contributions - MLA Pension	\$ 775
Allowances and Supplementary Benefits Conference Fees	\$ 1,400
Advertising	--
Travel (Meetings and Out-of-Province Conferences)	\$ 18,000
Audit of the Office of the Auditor General	\$ 11,000
Hospitality	\$ 2,200
Materials and Supplies	--
Payment to Committee Members	
Allowances \$10,300	
Expenses 7,700	<u>\$ 18,000</u>
Total	\$ 51,375



C. Robert Elliott, M.L.A.
Chairman